

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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P 011448Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6831

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0564

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE

DEFENSE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE CLEMENTS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR DEPUTY SECDEF

REF: STATE 020201

FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
CLEMENTS FROM AMBASSADOR

1. I APPRECIATED VERY MUCH RECEIVING YOUR MESSAGE FOR-
WARDED TO ME BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON JANUARY 27. I
KNOW OF THE LONG PERSONAL INTEREST YOU HAVE SHARED WITH
US IN THE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE MILITARY SALES AND
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO JORDAN AND APPRECIATE ESPECIALLY
YOUR INITIAL AND FOLLOW ON DECISIONS IN THE CASE OF THE
TRACKED VEHICLES FOR JORDAN. I HAVE TAKEN THE
LIBERTY OF SHOWING YOUR MESSAGE PRIVATELY TO LTGEN
BIN SHAKER BECUASE I KNEW IT WOULD HELP THE JORDANIANS
UNDERSTAND MORE THOROUGHLY THE REALITIES OF THE SITUA-
TION. AND AFTER OUR CURRENT GO AROUND WITH THE
JORDANIANS ON THE REQUEST FOR HAWK FINANCING, I NEED
ALL THE HELP I CAN MUSTER.

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2. IN ADDITION, I SINCERELY REGRET THAT WE SEEM TO HAVE

PUT BEFORE YOU AND THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MORE THAN OUR SHARE OF DIFFICULTIES WITH THE 1975 GRANT AND CREDIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (TRACKED ARTILLERY, TOW TRAINING SETS, PRICE INCREASES, AND THE LACK OF LETTERS OF OFFER FOR OUR CREDIT PROGRAMS). SIMILARLY, IN OUR FMS CASH PROGRAMS, WE SEEM TO HAVE GENERATED AN EXCEPTIONAL NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, AT TIMES WE AT THIS END ARE ALMOST FORCED TO CONCLUDE THE PROBLEMS ARE ENDLESS. IN EARLY MARCH WE EXPECT GENERAL BIN SHAKER IN WASHINGTON FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF THE MILITARY GROUP OF THE US-JORDAN JOINT COMMISSION TO BE FOLLOWED BY A VISIT FROM KING HUSSEIN. MY ONE REQUEST IS THAT WE HAVE ADEQUATE AND CAREFUL PREPARATION OF ALL WORK FOR THAT MEETING, AND ESPECIALLY THE INFORMATION ON PRICES, DELIVERY DATES AND AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORT AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT. TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST WE HAVE CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR OURSELVES BY BEING OVER OPTIMISTIC ON THESE BIG QUESTIONS. INITIALLY, WE SHOULD ERR ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE; THE JORDANIANS WOULD BE THRILLED WITH PRICE REDUCTIONS LATER IF WE COULD MAKE THEM. THIS OF COURSE DOES NOT MEAN THE JORDANIANS WILL NOT CONTINUE TO BARGAIN HARD IN ORDER TO GET THE BEST ARRANGEMENT THEY CAN.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF HAWK FUNDING, WE AND THE JORDANIANS REGRET THE DELAY CAUSED BY SAUDI SLOWNESS. NO ONE IS MORE INTERESTED THAN KING HUSSEIN IN WINDING THIS UP QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY.

4. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE US AIR FORCE HAS PROPOSED A LEGION OF MERIT AWARD FOR THE CHIEF OF THE JORDANIAN AIR FORCE WHEN HE VISITS THE UNITED STATES IN LATE FEBRUARY. WE ARE ALL FOR THIS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN THINKING FOR SOME TIME HOW WE CAN HONOR LTGEN BIN SHAKER, WHO AS YOU ARE AWARE, HAS JUST BEEN PROMOTED FROM CHIEF OF STAFF TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE JORDAN ARMED FORCES. SINCE HE WILL BE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES IN EARLY MARCH FOR THE REGULAR MEETING NOTED ABOVE, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT HE ALSO BE AWARDED A LEGION OF MERIT AT THAT TIME. TO AVOID PROTOCOL PROBLEMS HERE, SINCE BIN SHAKER IS THE DIRECT

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SUPERVISOR OF THE COMMANDER OF RJAF, I WOULD WANT TO BE ABLE TO INFORM GENERAL BIN SHAKER PRIVATELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY BEFORE HE COMES TO THE UNITED STATES THAT THESE MEDALS WILL BE AWARDED BOTH TO HIM AND HIS AIR FORCE COMMANDER. THIS WILL EASE THE WAY FOR THE AIR FORCE CHIEF'S AWARD WHICH WILL BE A SURPRISE FOR HIM AND WHICH WOULD, BECAUSE OF HIS VISIT TIMING, TAKE PLACE SOONER. IF APPROPRIATE, I WOULD SUGGEST

THATSECDEF OR YOU PERSONALLY MAKE THE AWARD
TO BIN SHAKER, PERHAPS IN THE PRESENCE OF SOME OR ALL
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS. I HOPE YOU WILL
GIVE THIS RECOMMENDATION YOUR FULL SUPPORT. IT WOULD
BE MOST HELPFUL IN CEMENTING THE STRONG TIES THAT LINK
THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENTS OF JORDAN AND THE UNITED
STATES.

5. I LOOK FORWARD TO CALLING ON YOU IN MARCH. MANY
THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING CLOSE INTEREST AND PERSONAL
ASSISTANCE. WITH WARM REGARDS. SINCERELY, TOM PICKERING.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY VEHICLES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN00564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0589
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaadenv.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 20201
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR DEPUTY SECDEF
TAGS: MASS, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006